

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-13, and 15 are pending. Claims 8 and 14 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 15 are amended. No new matter is added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite due to uncertainty in the meaning of the phrase “under a predetermined rule concerning random.” Applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments submitted herewith render this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application No. 2002/0038337. However, in view of the claim amendments submitted herewith, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

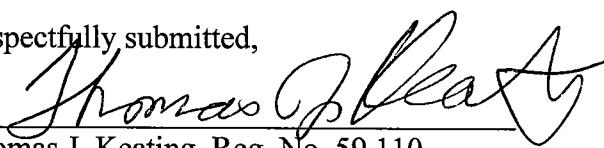
Applicant has amended claim 5 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, thus making claim 5 allowable. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 14, thus making claim 11 allowable. Further, claims 1, 3, 4, 10, and 15 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter and are thus also allowable. Finally, claims 6, 7, 12, and 13 are allowable for at least the reason that each depends from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issues remain. No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if an additional fee is owed, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1965.

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Respectfully submitted,



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